

I submit to you that these people are capable and experienced and in today's society they are qualified to vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: I call on Delegate Soul to speak up to three minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Soul.

DELEGATE SOUL: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, I rise to speak in favor of the Minority Report, not for three minutes but just simply to mention the fact that I read that the greatest factor that lead Mussolini, Hitler, and Lenin to ride to power was their success in capturing and misusing the youth of their countries.

I feel that this honorable body should not allow our youth to be used by any particular group. Therefore I think we should continue our voting age at 21.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Koss.

DELEGATE KOSS: I yield three minutes to Delegate Fornos.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Fornos.

DELEGATE FORNOS: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, it shocks me somewhat when I hear a member of our judicial courts refer to the young men over eighteen in this State as children, and I am the first one to agree with those who say that the argument "old enough to fight—old enough to vote" should be disassociated from the argument which centers around the lowering of the voting age.

I only hope that the five thousand young men who have died who were under twenty-one years of age did not die as children but as defenders of democracy.

I am also shocked when some of the proponents of the twenty-one-year-old proposal talk about the lack of willingness to accept responsibility, when seventy percent of the registered voters of this State refused to accept the responsibility to vote in the most important election of their lifetime last June 13.

I think that with the advent of the mass media, with the ever-increasing number of newspapers, and with the rapid communication of news, our young people today are more aware of what is going on in the world and are better educated than ever.

In 1867 the average education of the citizens of this State was 2.1 years; today as of June 30, 1967 the average education

is 11.4 years. Our young people, I submit to you, have a greater sense of responsibility, and a greater willingness to accept that responsibility.

Certainly I think they would be just as active at the polls as those sixty percent of the eligible adults in the State who have exercised that right. I furthermore submit that the young people giving their lives should have the right of shaping their destiny with respect to the government of this state.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. Chairman, I call on Delegate Finch for up to five minutes.

DELEGATE FINCH: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I rise to oppose the recommendation that the voting age be reduced to nineteen years, and urge that the minimum voting age be maintained at twenty-one years of age.

In stating this belief, it becomes obvious that I am opposed to giving the franchise, the right to vote, to teenagers or those under twenty-one. Therefore, from the outset, and to avoid misunderstanding, I would like to point out and, indeed, stress, that my views on the voting age do not reflect any feeling on my part of disrespect or distrust of today's teenagers. On the contrary, I look to the youth of today, to their increased concern and participation in many aspects of local and national affairs, with great confidence and much enthusiasm. I feel that our youth, today, is, predominantly, capable and conscientious, and that tomorrow we will have an abundance of distinguished leaders and responsible citizens.

My opposition to lowering the voting age is not, then, based on any distrust of today's youth because they are today's youth; it is based on what I consider the inadvisability of giving the vote to any group of eighteen-, nineteen- or twenty-year-old boys and girls, be they the youth of our generation, the young people of today, or the younger generation of future times. The reason is basically this: youth represents promise and potential. It does not, nor cannot represent experience and wisdom. When we are eighteen or nineteen, or twenty, we are, to a great extent, educated and learned in book knowledge, and we have been exposed to a vast cross-section of ideas and theories as presented or afforded us in our high school classes. At this age, we may be well-read and, most certainly, we are well-intentioned. We are